

Written Testimony.  
Education Committee Public Hearing.  
March 17, 2015.  
Regarding Bill # 1096: An Act Concerning Charter Schools

In light of the SBOE's recent recommendation and request for 21 million dollars for 8 more charter schools and your continued support for expansion of the Commissioner's Network, it is unconscionable that further allocation of tax-payer resources and the on-going promotion of unfair privatization special interests is still being considered by this legislature. Less than two days after Governor Malloy's re-election, he announced the SBOE's continued support for charter school expansion. In light of the many active investigations that are currently undertaken into the suspected controversies associated with charter schools both in our state and across this country, it is difficult to understand how the legislature can continue to divert millions of precious financial resources, while underfunding other public schools in the same communities. It is not the responsibility of the legislature to pick winners and losers in the education sweepstakes, but rather it is your responsibility to ensure equitable opportunities for all. You should not allow further squandering scarce public funds on highly controversial and unproven charter schools. There is certainly enough evidence of problems associated with charter school operations across our country that should make you, as legislators, think very carefully before recommending that more precious resources be allocated to further risky and unproven privatization endeavors. Please protect the public education of all of Connecticut's students and not allow private enterprise to access the allocation of public funds for our children.

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